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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/035,534	11/09/2001	Christopher J. Conway	9858-000031	4678

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EXAMINER

GARCIA, ERNESTO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/035,534

Applicant(s)

CONWAY, CHRISTOPHER J.

Examiner

Ernesto Garcia

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2001 and 24 March 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 40 and 42-46 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 and 47-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,3.
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 6.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 40-50 were renumbered to 39-49 since the application was filed with claim 39 missing. Dependency of renumbered claims 43-46, 48 and 49 were also renumbered according to the renumbered claims.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 40 and 42-46 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 6.

Applicant's election with traverse of Species I, Fig. 5, in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that Figures 10a and 10b are simply alternate embodiments of the preferred embodiment with a locking ring, and patentably distinct inventions do not result whether the engagement member and the different threaded portions are on a locking ring, a first component, or a second component. This is not found persuasive because applicant has not submitted evidence or identified such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. Furthermore, the restriction is not based on whether the engagement member and the different threaded portions are on the locking

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ring, the first component or the second component, but rather a connector having a ring or no ring. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "28a" has been used to designate both a protrusion without a peak (Fig. 7) and a protrusion with a peak (Fig. 8a).

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the thread engagement engaging the first threaded portion and the second thread portion (claim 1) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. Figures 5, 8a-8c., and Figure 10a and 10b show a threaded engagement engaging the second thread portion only.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 16 and 31 are objected to because of the following informalities:

regarding claim 1, the limitation "and" in line 7 should be --or-- since the thread engagement engages the first threaded portion or the second threaded portion alternatively and not both at the same time;

regarding claim 2, the limitation "and" in line 2 should be --or-- for the same reason as stated in claim 1;

regarding claim 4, the limitation "radial protrusion" in line 3 should be --of the radial protrusions--;

regarding claims 13 and 16, the limitation "housing" in line 1 should be --housing--; and,

regarding claim 31, the limitation "and" in line 9 should be --or-- as stated in claim 1 above. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-39, 41 and 47-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Paullus et al., 3,901,574 (see marked-up attachment).

Regarding claim 1, Paullus et al. disclose in Figure 1 and 2 a connector comprising a housing **16** and a locking ring **52**. The housing **16** defines a first thread portion **A2** and a second thread portion **38**. The first thread portion **A2** comprises a first pitch coarser than a second pitch of the second thread portion **38**. The locking ring **52** defines a thread engagement member **72,74**.

The thread engagement member **72,74** is engageable with the first thread portion **A2** and the second thread portion **38**.

Regarding claim 2, the thread engagement member **72,74** comprises two radial protrusions **72,74**. The radial protrusions **72,74** are engageable with the first thread portion **A2** and the second thread portion **38**.

Regarding claims 3, 19, 23 and 31, the radial protrusions **72,74** are diametrically opposed.

Regarding claim 4, at least one thread protrusion **40** is disposed within the second thread portion **38**. At least one of the radial protrusions **72,74** engages the thread protrusion **40**.

Regarding claim 6, the connector further comprises two thread protrusions **40,42** disposed within the second thread portion **38**. The radial protrusions **72,74** engage the two thread protrusions **40,42** (Fig. 6).

Regarding claims 5, 7 and 9, the connector further comprises a lateral stop **44** disposed at an end of the second thread portion **38**.

Regarding claim 8, at least one a thread protrusion **40** is disposed within the second thread portion **38**. The thread engagement member **72,74** engages the thread protrusion **40**.

Regarding claims 10, 20, 24 and 38, the locking ring **52** further comprises an exterior surface **82** defining axial ridges **68**.

Regarding claims 11 and 14, Paullus et al. disclose a housing **16** or a socket housing **16** comprising a first thread portion **A2** defining a first pitch and a second thread portion **38** defining a second pitch. A component **52** engages the first thread portion **A2** and the second thread portion **38**.

Regarding claims 12 and 15, the housing **16** further comprises at least one thread protrusion **40** disposed within the second thread portion **38** such that the component **52** engages the thread protrusion **40**.

Regarding claims 13 and 16, the housing **16** further comprises a lateral stop **44** disposed at an end of the second thread portion **38**.

Regarding claims 17 and 21, Paullus et al. disclose a locking ring **52** comprising a thread engagement member **72,74** and a component **16**. The thread engagement member **72,74** engages threaded portions **A2,38** of the component **16**.

Regarding claims 18 and 22, the threaded portions **A2,38** comprises two radial protrusions **72,74** that engage the threaded portions **A2,38** of the component **16**.

Regarding claim 25, Paullus et al. disclose in Figures 1 and 2 a fluid and electric connector comprising a housing **16**, at least one thread protrusion **40**, and a locking ring **52**. The housing **16** defines at least one threaded portion **A2, 38**. The thread protrusion **40** is disposed within the threaded portion **A2, 38**. The locking ring **52** defines a thread engagement member **72,74**. The thread engagement member **72,74** engages the thread protrusion **40**.

Regarding claim 26, the connector further comprises two thread protrusions **40,42**. The thread engagement member **72,74** engages the thread protrusions **40,42**.

Regarding claim 27, the thread protrusion **40** defines a first sloped surface **34** and a second sloped surface ***18** such that the thread engagement member **72,74** passes over the first sloped surface **34** and the second sloped surface ***18**.

Regarding claim 28, a lateral stop **44** is disposed at an end of the threaded portion **A2, 38**.

Regarding claim 29, a connector comprises a housing **16** and a locking ring **52**. The housing **16** defines multiple threaded portions **A2,38** extending along a length of housing **16**. Each successive threaded portion **A2, 38**, along the length, comprises a pitch different than a pitch of a previous threaded portion **A2, 38**. The locking ring **52** defines a thread engagement member **72,74**. The thread engagement member **72,74** engages the threaded portions **A2,38**.

Regarding claim 30, the thread engagement member **72,74** comprises two radial protrusions **72,74** that engage the threaded portions **A2,38**.

Regarding claims 32 and 36, the connector further comprises at least one thread protrusion **40** disposed with a threaded portion **A2, 38** such that at least one of the radial protrusions **72,74** engages the thread protrusion **40**.

Regarding claims 33, 35 and 37, a lateral stop **44** is disposed at an end of a threaded portion **A2, 38**.

Regarding claim 34, the connector further comprises two thread protrusions **40,42** within a threaded portion **A2, 38** such that the radial protrusions **72,74** engage the two thread protrusions **40,42**.

Regarding claim 39, the thread engagement member **72,74** is internal to the locking ring **52** and the threaded portions **A2,38** are external to the housing **16**.

Regarding claim 41, Paullus et al. disclose in Figs. 1 and 2 a connector comprising a housing **16** and a locking ring **52**. The housing **16** defines a first thread portion **A2** and a second thread portion **38**. The first thread portion **A2** comprises a first pitch coarser than a second pitch of the second thread portion **38**. Two thread protrusions **40,42** are disposed within the second thread portion **38**. The locking ring **52** defines a thread engagement member **72,74** comprising two diametrically opposed radial protrusions **72,74**. The radial protrusions **72,74** engage the first thread portion **A2**

or the second thread portion **38**. The radial protrusions **72,74** engage the thread protrusions **40,42**.

Regarding claims 47-49, given the structure of claims 1, 25, 29 or 41 above, the method of connecting two components is performed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ernesto Garcia whose telephone number is 703-308-8606. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30-5:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H Browne can be reached on 703-308-1159. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2168.


Lynne H. Browne
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600

E.G.

May 29, 2003

Attachment: one marked-up copy of Paullus et al., 3,901,574.

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